



Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Serbia (Belgrade), LGBT Pride Parade (October 2, 2011)

Political Violence

Europe > Serbia > Belgrade

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U.S. Embassy Belgrade released the following Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens on September 29, 2011:

On Sunday, October 2, at 10:00AM, Serbia's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community plan to hold a pride parade and rally in downtown Belgrade. The U.S. Embassy Belgrade's Regional Security Office (RSO) has indicated that there is a high potential for violence before, during, and after the march. Serbian authorities have also informed the RSO that a number of groups opposed to the march will begin assembling at various locations throughout Belgrade on Saturday, October 1, and confrontations between these groups and the police are possible. The RSO has strongly recommended that embassy personnel avoid the downtown area and limit travel throughout Belgrade both Saturday and Sunday.

The U.S. Embassy Belgrade informs U.S. citizens that Serbian Police have called the parade and rally "high risk" events. There will be a large police presence downtown throughout the day of the parade. Police have pledged to do all they can to protect parade participants and businesses along the route and after the march, but similar events have been marred by violence in the past. Last year's march was marked by running street battles between police and protestors. Given the heavy police presence along the route, the RSO has learned that protestors may also target individuals at transportation hubs and other gathering places where the police presence may not be as heavy both before and after the march.

U.S. citizens should know that demonstrations that begin peacefully can quickly turn violent. You should avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. Try to stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

You can stay in touch and get embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Belgrade website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website, where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. If you don't have Internet access, we have a call center for updates. You can call 1-888-407-4747, which is toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444, a regular toll line which is available outside the U.S. and Canada.

We encourage U.S. citizens living or traveling in Serbia to register with the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to



obtain updated information on travel and security within Serbia. By registering, U.S. citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may register directly at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade. The U.S. Embassy in Belgrade is located at 50 Kneza Miloša Street. The Embassy telephone number is 381-11-3619-344. The Consular Section telephone is 381-11-3619-344 ext. 4655, 4665 and 4860, and the fax number is 381-11-3615-989. For after-hour emergencies, the number is 381-11-306-4679.